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# international review of the red cross



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GENEVA
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FOUNDED IN 1863

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### FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

### SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

**SPANISH** 

Pierre Boissier: Florencia Nightingale y Henry Dunant (II) — Reconocimiento de la Sociedad de la Media Luna Roja Mauritana — Amazonia - Programa de asistencia médica del CICR — Venezuela — Día mundial de la Cruz Roja «Tú y nuestro mundo».

### **GERMAN**

Ian Harding: Der Ursprung der Genfer Abkommen und ihre Wirksamkeit für den Schutz der Kriegsopfer — Amazonien - Medizinisches Hilfsprogramm des IKRK — El-Arish - Mekka - Durch Vermittlung des Roten Kreuzes.

# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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The International Committee of the Red Cross assumes responsibility only for material over its own signature.

## NEW ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

An extraordinary plenary meeting of the ICRC at the end of June 1973 approved new Statutes which, consistent with the conclusions reached by an expert, Professor Rudolf Probst, Berne, provide for the work of the ICRC to be shared between two bodies, each having distinct responsibilities and its own President.

The Assembly, the supreme policy-making body of the ICRC, consists of fifteen to twenty-five members. It lays down general principles and supervises all ICRC activities.

The Executive Board is charged with the conduct of affairs and directly supervises the administration. It comprises not more than seven members who may be chosen from within or without the ICRC membership.

The Directorate, responsible for management in accordance with the Executive Board's general directives, comprises the directors of three departments, namely, the Operations Department, the Department of Principles and Law, and the Administrative Department. Some services, i.e. the Central Tracing Agency, the Information Service, and Finance and Management Control, work directly under either the Assembly or the Executive Board.

New Rules of Procedure were adopted by the plenary meeting of the ICRC after consulting the Directorate and representatives of the Staff Association.

In order to ensure a turnover on the Committee, the new Statutes limit membership on the ICRC to three four-year periods.

The Executive Board, which is responsible for administrative organization, has been requested to submit to the Assembly a report on measures which it will have taken or will be contemplating:

### by 31 October 1973

- (a) for the Directorate structure and appointments;
- (b) for the organization of service arrangements between Geneva headquarters and delegates on mission;

### by 31 December 1973

- (c) to rationalize work with a view to increasing the institution's efficiency and to reducing expense;
- (d) to lay down conditions and arrangements for the recruiting and training of delegates and other staff and for co-operation with the Federal Council's delegate to relief missions abroad;
- (e) to give effect to the proposals of the O & M Group.

This Organization and Methods Group, under the chairmanship of one of Professor Probst's staff, but otherwise consisting of members of the Directorate and staff, was formed in order:

- (1) to examine in detail how each division of the Directorate and of the Administration functions, and to propose necessary improvements;
- (2) to ensure better co-ordination between headquarters and missions;
- (3) after taking into consideration the opinions of the Directorate, the departments and services concerned, and the Staff Association, on measures envisaged by the Group, to make proposals to the Executive Board.

\* \*

The Assembly elected as President of the ICRC Mr. Eric Martin, Doctor of Medicine, honorary professor and former rector of the University of Geneva. He was also for many years one of the leaders of the Swiss Red Cross. His long experience of the Red Cross world makes him particularly well qualified to assume the presidency of the ICRC. Mr. Martin will discharge his functions in the framework of the duties incumbent on the President of the Assembly, the con-

duct of affairs coming within the purview of the Executive Board and its President, Mr. Roger Gallopin, who, some time ago, was Director-General and member of the Presidential Council of the ICRC.

The following four new members have been co-opted to the ICRC with effect from 1 July 1973: Mr. Pierre Boissier, Mr. Gilbert Etienne, Dr. Ulrich Middendorp and Miss Marion Rothenbach. <sup>1</sup>

To the Executive Board, the Assembly appointed:

Mr. Roger Gallopin, President

Mr. Victor H. Umbricht, Vice-President

Mrs. Denise Bindschedler-Robert

Dr. Ulrich Middendorp

Mr. Gottfried de Smit, former ICRC delegate, manager of a shipping company, Basle.

The ICRC takes this opportunity of conveying to Mr. Marcel Naville its gratitude for the distinction and dedication with which he has presided over the institution for four difficult years, and it thanks him for continuing to serve it as one of its members.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> We shall devote an article to them in a forthcoming issue. The full list of ICRC members is given on the inside of the cover-page.

### AN IMPORTANT TASK FOR THE ICRC

# INDEMNIFICATION OF FORMER ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR IN JAPANESE HANDS

In September 1951, a Peace Treaty between Japan and the Allied Powers that fought against Japan was signed in San Francisco. Article 16 of the Peace Treaty provided for a mandate given to the ICRC to undertake the distribution of funds to those former prisoners of war in Japanese hands who were nationals of the Powers parties to the Treaty, as compensation for the undue hardships those prisoners had suffered during captivity.

The task thus entrusted to the ICRC by a number of governments was considerable. International Review had already informed its readers of the successive tasks accomplished for the distribution of the funds to each of the countries involved. The funds were to be divided in proportion to the total number of the prisoners of war from each country and were to be utilized to provide assistance to former prisoners or to the families of those who had died in captivity or who were suffering from some disability as a result of their imprisonment.

The whole operation, requiring long drawn out negotiations, the tracing of former prisoners and the checking of lists of names, was too complex for it to be implemented in a short time. It was completed some time ago and the ICRC has judged it appropriate to issue a report in French and English, which we are glad to reproduce in International Review in several instalments. It is to be noted that the International Committee of the Red Cross, in helping to carry out, on a strictly humanitarian plane, this novel and very extensive task,

has acted fully in accordance with the traditional principles that have guided its activity as a neutral intermediary and as an independent institution. (Ed.)

\* \*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Article 16 of the Peace Treaty between Japan and the Allied Powers, signed on 8 September 1951 in San Francisco, provided as follows:

" As an expression of its desire to indemnify those members of the armed forces of the Allied Powers who suffered undue hardships while prisoners of war of Japan, Japan will transfer its assets and those of its nationals in countries which were neutral during the war, or which were at war with any of the Allied Powers, or, at its option, the equivalent of such assets, to the International Committee of the Red Cross which shall liquidate such assets and distribute the resultant fund to appropriate national agencies, for the benefit of former prisoners of war and their families on such basis as it may determine to be equitable. The categories of assets described in Article 14 (a) 2 (II) (ii) through (v) of the present Treaty shall be excepted from transfer, as well as assets of Japanese natural persons not residents of Japan on the first coming into force of the Treaty. It is equally understood that the transfer provision of this Article has no application to the 19,770 shares in the Bank for International Settlements presently owned by Japanese financial institutions."

The Peace Treaty was signed by the representatives of Japan and of the following Powers:

New Zealand Argentina Ethiopia Australia France Nicaragua Belgium Greece Norway Bolivia Guatemala Pakistan Brazil Haiti Panama Cambodia Honduras Paraguay Canada Indonesia Peru Ceylon Iran Philippines Chile Saudi Arabia Iraq Colombia Laos South Africa Costa Rica Lebanon Turkey Cuba Liberia United Kingdom United States Dominican Republic Luxembourg Mexico Ecuador Uruguay Netherlands Egypt Venezuela. El Salvador Vietnam

Czechoslovakia, Poland, and the USSR, represented at the Conference, did not sign the Treaty. Burma, India and Yugoslavia, invited, were not represented. China, already divided, was not invited.

In a statement to the Conference, the United States waived its claim to the benefit due to it under the terms of Article 16. The Treaty became effective on 28 April 1952.

Having been invited to attend the Conference for the peace settlement with Japan, the International Committee of the Red Cross¹ sent to San Francisco a mission led by the President, Mr. Paul Ruegger. Although the Conference proceeded in such a way that it was impossible to make any amendment to the draft text submitted to the Powers represented, Mr. Ruegger was able to assure himself of the free consent of the Japanese to the application of Article 16

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hereinafter referred to by its initials, ICRC.

and to obtain the assurance that the other problems arising from the application of that Article could be solved by later talks with the Powers concerned.

### II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Article 16 is an integral part of an international treaty which, by definition, binds the Powers Parties, but also provides for a mandate given to the ICRC, viz., to a non-governmental humanitarian institution which is not Party to the Treaty.

This exceptional legal situation is not however without a precedent. It is in fact known that the Geneva Committee's activity of assistance was recognized successively by the Diplomatic Conferences of 1864, 1904, 1929 and 1949. The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relative to the protection of war victims have, in addition, entrusted it with a certain number of responsibilities, particularly as regards supervision (Art. 126, Convention III; Art. 143, Convention IV). The ICRC is thus considered as being an implied subject of international law, which also explains the tasks which were entrusted to it at San Francisco.

First of all, it will be noted that Article 16 demanded of Japan an obligation combined with a choice. It had to "transfer its assets and those of its nationals in countries which were neutral during the war, or which were at war with any of the Allied Powers, or, at its option, the equivalent of such assets to the International Committee of the Red Cross." Japan had thus an obligation both towards the other Contracting Parties, namely the Allied Powers, and the ICRC, charged with liquidating the assets and distributing the resultant fund "to appropriate national agencies for the benefit of former prisoners of war and their families on such basis as it may determine to be equitable".

Article 16 thus set up an institutional arrangement implying:

- Japan's initial obligation as provider of the funds,
- the mandate given to the ICRC to undertake the distribution of these funds,
- the freedom left to it to determine the basis of equitable distribution.

- the designation of former prisoners of war and their families as beneficiaries,
- the intermediary of "appropriate national agencies" which decide on the role of the Allied Powers.

These High Contracting Parties were the principal agents of these distribution operations. It was in fact for the States to take the initial measures enabling the distribution to be effected as laid down. It was also for them to ensure the respecting of the provisions of Article 16 at all stages of liquidation and distribution. They should also be in a position to provide the ICRC with information necessary for it to accomplish its task on the basis of concrete facts.

In order to co-ordinate their action and facilitate co-operation with the ICRC, the governments of the beneficiary Powers set up a Working Party with headquarters in London. The Foreign Office of the United Kingdom convenes the members and ensures the functioning of the secretariat for its sessions. This Working Party is not empowered to engage the Powers it represents, but merely makes recommendations which have to be ratified before being put into effect. Such procedure involved delays which could sometimes be considerable.

The beneficiary Powers also appointed a more restricted Executive Committee on which only three Powers are represented, namely the Netherlands, Pakistan and the United Kingdom. Its main task was to bring the requisite technical discussions between Japan and the other governments concerned to a satisfactory conclusion so as to make available to the ICRC the assets as mentioned in Article 16.

It was also for the beneficiary Powers to nominate "the appropriate national agencies" to whom the ICRC was to entrust the distribution of funds for former allied prisoners of war or their families. These national agencies were designated by each of the governments concerned to draw up lists of persons eligible, fulfilling the conditions for qualification as laid down in Article 16 or as defined at meetings of the Working Party.

Several governments delayed in sending the ICRC the names of the national agencies responsible, which obliged it to give them several reminders. It also happened that the national agency was changed during the preliminary operations of deciding on the actual number of beneficiaries.

The agencies appointed were as follows:

Australia Australian Government Belgium Belgian Red Cross Cambodia Cambodian Red Cross

Canada Canadian Commission for War Damage Claims

Chile Chilean Government

France Ministry for Ex-Servicemen and War Victims

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
New Zealand New Zealand Government
Norway Ministry of Social Welfare
Pakistan Adjutant-General of the Army

Philippines Philippine Red Cross Syria Syrian Red Crescent

United Kingdom Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance

Vietnam Ministry of Defence

As the other factor in the arrangement, the ICRC was represented at meetings of the Working Party or of the Executive Committee whenever questions of general interest were raised, or there were suggestions to be made to the beneficiary Powers or instructions to be asked of them.

As a private institution with a strictly humanitarian role, the International Committee was resolved to put its mandate into execution on behalf of former prisoners of war designated to benefit from these operations of indemnification.

The responsibilities thus devolving upon it in the liquidation and administration of considerable assets, and in their distribution to a large number of nationals of several different countries led it to set up a vigilance committee consisting of the following:

Chairman: Mr. Paul Carry, Doctor of Laws, Barrister, Professor of the Faculty of Law at Geneva University, now an honorary member of the ICRC.

### Members:

Mr. Ernest R. Froehlich, Doctor of Laws, President of the Foundation for the Organization of Red Cross Transport.

Mr. Eugène Hasler, Doctor of Laws, former Judge on the Swiss Federal High Court.

Mr. Frédéric Schnorf, former Director-General of the Swiss National Bank.

Mr. Hans Bachmann, Doctor of Laws, now a member of the ICRC.

### III. COLLECTION OF FUNDS

Compensation as laid down in Article 16 of the Peace Treaty of San Francisco involved the sale of certain assets for distribution among an undetermined number of beneficiaries. It was therefore necessary above all to know the amount of funds to be distributed.

### 1. Basic criterion

The Powers signatories to the Treaty have given a restrictive description of the funds earmarked for the former prisoners of war, and their families, namely assets of Japan or of its nationals in countries which remained neutral during the war, or were at war with at least one of the Allied Powers. Such assets or their equivalent could be transferred at the discretion of the Japanese Government.

In the event of Japan's opting for the second solution, the ICRC made a reservation with a view to obtaining compensation from the Japanese Government for private assets coming within the provisions of Article 16. In addition, it made it known that it was not in a position to undertake valuation and transfer operations, nor competent to conduct political negotiations which might prove necessary for the conduct of these operations of a commercial character. In fact the funds were in countries which had been neutral during the course of the Second World War, or enemies of the Allied Powers, that is to say in countries which were not Parties to the Peace Treaty of San Francisco, and consequently in no way bound to the provisions of Article 16.

The checking of the assets involved, their realization and their transfer to the ICRC were therefore the responsibility of the Powers whose nationals were designated as beneficiaries of the distribution. The International Committee could only give support to their representations with a view to safeguarding the beneficiaries' interests.

Furthermore, the former prisoners of war and their families were dispersed in a large number of countries which moreover were not the same as those from which the funds emanated. The ICRC therefore asked that these assets be realized and handed over to it in freely convertible currency.

### 2. Application of the basic criterion

The Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom set about locating and evaluating the assets. They observed that the assets were to be found in Afghanistan, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Thailand.

First checking enabled only very approximate estimates to be made of the amount of funds available under Article 16. The Powers holding them in fact were reluctant to give the required information, especially Switzerland where about half the funds had been placed, mostly representing private assets covered by banking secrecy. Estimates varied widely: the highest being thrice the lowest.

In addition, the countries where the assets were to be found themselves made counter-claims against Japan as war damages they considered to be due to them. They also maintained that these claims should be met before any assignment be made of the assets which they held. Whilst waiting to allow these demands, the Japanese funds mentioned in Article 16 were blocked, the net amount remaining unknown.

Liquidation as laid down in the San Francisco Treaty encountered yet another obstacle in the fact that Japanese public assets in the neutral or enemy countries of the Allied Powers had been placed under the control of the four Great Powers, namely Great Britain, the USA, the USSR and China. Two of these, however, were not signatories to the Peace Treaty of San Francisco.

Japan, for its part, wanted to avoid having to pay twice: in other words, it did not wish to assign these assets to States holding them and submitting claims under war damages, and also transfer the equivalent amount of these same assets as compensation to former Allied Powers. Finally, like many other countries at that time, Japan was short of foreign currency which did not facilitate the making of the necessary payments.

### 3. Liquidation of assets

After many representations and a succession of negotiations, resulting in considerable delays, the first funds paid to the ICRC were those representing Japanese funds in Thailand.

The United States and the United Kingdom established, and this was accepted by the other beneficiary Powers, that the purchase price of the Thailand Burma railway built by interned civilians and Allied prisoners of war in Japanese hands should not be included in the estimate of assets coming within the provisions of Article 16. The United Kingdom which was thus to receive £355,000 agreed to distribute this amount to persons whom Japan had forced to take part in the building of the railway. The total of Japanese assets in Thailand was fixed at \$2,500,000.

The other beneficiary Powers having made known their agreement to this amount, Thailand paid in to the ICRC in September 1953, half in US dollars and the other half in sterling:

£446,428/11/5 and \$1,250,000.

The results of negotiations with the other countries holding Japanese assets took somewhat longer so that Japan was asked to remit their equivalent to the ICRC. The representatives of several governments of the beneficiary Powers approached it in this sense and the International Committee itself intervened in Tokyo where Mr. E. R. Froelich, member of the Vigilance Council, went to attempt to convince the Japanese authorities accordingly.

In autumn 1954, the Executive Committee finally sent to Tokyo a delegation which on 30 November signed an agreement with the

Japanese Government. Under that agreement the Japanese authorities undertook to pay the sum of £4,500,000 to the ICRC. The agreement duly received the approval of the beneficiary Powers.

After settlement of technical problems connected with exchange rates and methods of transfer, the ICRC received in May 1955 from the Japanese Government the following amounts:

£2,250,000 and \$6,292,500.

The total collected by then, together with the funds already received from Thailand, amounted to:

£2,696,428/11/5 and \$7,542,500.

These sums were at once suitably invested, until the ICRC should receive from the national agencies all the necessary facts to determine the number of parties entitled in each of the countries concerned and to calculate the amount of each national share on this basis.

# IV. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTITLEMENT TO COMPENSATION FROM THE FUND

The ICRC did not wait for receipt of all the funds which were to be made available to it before determining the criteria according to which the funds were to be distributed, taking into account the discretion which the signatory Powers delegated to it in this connection.

In other words, to whom and how were the Japanese assets to be distributed?

Article 16 gives some guidance to the reply to these two questions by specifying "... to indemnify those members of the armed forces of the Allied Powers who suffered undue hardships while prisoners of war of Japan ..."

The qualifying conditions conferring a right to indemnity were therefore, in general,

- membership of an allied army;
- captivity, as a member of an allied army, in Japan as a prisoner of war;
- subjection to excessive privation during that period of captivity.

### 1. Beneficiary Powers

The term "Allied Power" is defined in Article 25 of the Peace Treaty as follows:

"For the purposes of the present Treaty the Allied Powers shall be the States at war with Japan, or any State which previously formed a part of the territory of a State named in Article 23, 1 provided that in each case the State concerned has signed and ratified the Treaty. Subject to the provisions of Article 21, 2 the present Treaty shall not confer any rights, titles or benefits on any State which is not an Allied Power as herein defined; nor shall any right, title or interest of Japan be deemed to be diminished or prejudiced by any provision of the Treaty in favour of a State which is not an Allied Power as so defined."

This excluded nationals of countries which were not signatories to the treaty and nationals of countries which although signatories had not ratified the treaty.

There was for a long time incertitude about operations due to the fact that two countries, the Philippines and Indonesia, were very late in deciding whether to ratify the treaty or not; the Philippines did so, and Indonesia did not.

This considerably delayed the start of preparatory work in the Philippines and compelled the ICRC to place part of the funds in reserve for former Filipino prisoners of war, without knowing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> U.S.A., Australia, Canada, Ceylon, France, Indonesia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Republic of the Philippines, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> According to article 21 of the treaty, China and Korea were entitled to benefit from the provisions of some articles in the treaty but not those of article 16.

whether the funds would in fact be paid out to them. The margin of insecurity was large; Filipino former POWs seemed to account for about a quarter of all possible claimants.

In order to determine which of the Allied Powers were to benefit from the provisions of Art. 16, the ICRC requested them several times to inform it if members of their armed forces had been prisoners of war in Japan. The determining factor was membership of the armed forces, not nationality or residence. The Executive Committee, at its second session on 8 October 1953, when laying down the responsibilities of the beneficiary Powers, decided that it was for the Power in whose armed forces a former prisoner of war served at the time of his capture, to see that he receive his share, whatever his nationality and residence. An exception was, however, made in the case of those Powers which acquired their independence after the cessation of hostilities, who should themselves assume the responsibility for the defence of the interests of their nationals.

The last request was in February 1955, asking for replies to be sent before 30 April 1955; it enabled the following list of 14 beneficiary Powers to be drawn up:

Australia Netherlands
Belgium New Zealand
Cambodia Norway
Canada Pakistan
Chile Philippines
France Syria
Great Britain Vietnam

The United States renounced claims to indemnity for members of its armed forces.

### 2. The "undue hardships" criterion

When deciding what criteria to adopt to ensure an equitable distribution of the Japanese assets, the ICRC had first to bear in mind the basic Red Cross principles and the intentions of the High Contracting Parties. It also endeavoured to ensure that solutions would be practicable and not delay the compensation operations in a manner incompatible with the objective.

The wording "... those members of the armed forces of the allied Powers who suffered undue hardships..." in Article 16 clearly revealed the intention of the States to individualize compensation. The Parties to the San Francisco Treaty did in fact intend to reach those former prisoners of war who had physically and morally suffered most from their captivity.

The same Parties however did not take into consideration the task facing the national agencies of undertaking—if any differentiation in the degree of suffering from case to case had to be made—thousands of thorough enquiries and then of comparing results. Apart from the difficulty of discounting subjective reactions in the face of such privation, it would have been necessary to set up a sophisticated administrative and medical organization. Such an undertaking would have taken a great deal of time—and there had already been considerable delay since the Treaty came into force—and would have absorbed a large part of the available funds. Consequently, the benefits for claimants would have been less and would have been even further delayed,

Having been entrusted with determining "the basis it deemed equitable" for the compensating of these former prisoners of war, the ICRC brought these considerations to the notice of the beneficiary Powers' Working Group at its first session from 4 to 6 March 1953. The consensus on that occasion was that, to speed up and facilitate the remittance of funds to the national agencies, it would be preferable to assume the following hypothesis as a basis:

"The number of prisoners having suffered excessive privation was proportionally the same in each of the national contingents".

It was therefore decided that each national quota would be directly proportional to the number of prisoners of war in Japanese hands.

Each national agency was therefore to receive the same amount for each prisoner recognized as an eligible claimant. As a result, compensations already paid out by some States to former POWs from Japanese assets abandoned under other provisions of the Peace Treaty were not taken into consideration for the distribution among the national agencies of the funds covered by Article 16: the other refunds referred to had been forfeited to the States in whose possession they were, without any qualifying condition regarding their utilisation.

### 3. Membership of an allied army and captivity as a POW

According to Article 16, the beneficiaries had to be former members of the armed forces of an allied Power and to have suffered internment as prisoners of war in Japanese hands.

These two criteria were also examined by the Working Party during its March 1953 session. Membership of the armed forces was the main problem.

The Working Party decided that the criteria according to Article 16 should be interpreted strictly. Interned civilians and merchant-seamen were therefore not eligible even if they had been interned in the same camps as the POWs. It was also left to the ICRC to decide, in consultation with the governments concerned, whenever doubt arose on the question of membership of the armed forces of the Allied Powers.

Such problems did in effect subsequently occur in several countries due to the very special situations resulting from the war in the Far East and in the Pacific Ocean. Decisions to grant or refuse compensation as provided for under Article 16, in connection with cases raised by a country, were taken as "case law" by other countries where similar cases arose. In this way the ICRC endeavoured to ensure an equitable balance of solutions from case to case with a view to providing treatment which was as far as possible the same for all the former POWs concerned.

The following examples illustrate how the International Committee applied this criterion of membership of the armed forces: it excluded:

- all civilians;
- seamen of the merchant marine;
- the guerrilleros or members of resistance movements who were not members of the regular armed forces at the time of their capture.

It granted the benefits of Article 16 in respect of claims by:

- the United Kingdom, for the Hong Kong Police;
- the Netherlands, for the Mounted Police, the "Stadswachters" and the "Landswachters" demobilised shortly before the capitulation but taken prisoner before the demobilisation orders could reach them or could be carried out;
- France (armed forces in Indochina), for the "Gendarmerie", the "Compagnies républicaines de sécurité", the "Garde républicaine", the "Garde mobile", the "Garde indochinoise", and children who took part in the fighting in Indochina
- the Philippines, for Filipinos of the US land and sea forces ("Philippine Scouts") even for those who had acquired American nationality after their release from captivity:

provided they were the children of soldiers.

India or Pakistan, for East Punjabi moslems whose nationality (Indian or Pakistani) had not been decided.

The prisoner of war criterion, the ICRC decided, excluded claims in respect of members of the armed forces who had been killed in combat or when they were surrendering.

At the suggestion of the Australian Government, however, it was decided that the members of families of former POWs who died in or after captivity should receive the compensation which would have been due to them had the POWs survived. An appreciable part of the compensation funds provided for under Art. 16 was thus paid to the heirs of POWs.

(to be continued)

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

### Recognition of the Mauritanian Red Crescent Society

Geneva, 7 June 1973.

### Circular No. 489

to the Central Committees of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have the honour to inform you that the International Committee of the Red Cross, on 6 June 1973, officially recognized the Mauritanian Red Crescent Society.

The new Society formally applied for recognition by the International Committee on 5 March 1973. Its request was supported by its Statutes, the Mauritanian Government Decree recognizing the Mauritanian Red Crescent as a National Society auxiliary to the public authorities, and a report on the Society's activities.

These documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, showed that the ten qualifying conditions for recognition of a new National Society had been fulfilled.

This recognition, which the International Committee is pleased to announce, brings to 117 the total number of member Societies of the International Red Cross.

The Mauritanian Red Crescent, which was visited in 1972 by representatives of the International Committee and of the League

### INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

of Red Cross Societies, is active throughout the territory. It is concerned, in case of conflict, with assistance to military and civilian wounded and sick and to prisoners of war. In peacetime, it goes to the aid of victims of natural disasters, alleviates suffering, and takes part in health improvement schemes, including those adopted for the prevention of disease.

The Government of Mauritania acceded to the 1949 Geneva Conventions on 30 October 1962. The autonomous character of the Society is provided for in the Statutes and is guaranteed by the aforesaid Decree.

Mrs. Sall Abdul Aziz is President of the Society, which has its headquarters at Nouakchott.\*

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Mauritanian Red Crescent to membership of the International Red Cross, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes for its future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Marcel A. Naville

President

<sup>\*</sup> The new Society's address is : Mauritanian Red Crescent Society, B.P. 344, Avenue Gamal Abdel Nasser, Nouakchott.

### EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

### Angola

From 17 to 30 May 1973, a doctor and a delegate from the ICRC were in Angola. From 21 to 25 May, they visited the detention camp of São Nicolau, the military hospital, the Luanda prison and the Luso prison. They saw, in all, some 1,900 people detained for political reasons and they were able to talk with them in private.

After their visits, the delegates met the director general for security to whom they conveyed their observations.

The delegates also went to the districts of Moçamedes, Moxico, Huambo and Luanda. In each place they were received by the Governor, the military commander of the zone and the local authorities. In addition, they met the leaders of the district delegations of the Portuguese Red Cross.

### West Africa

Niger: One of the ICRC regional delegates for West Africa was in Niger from 15 to 26 May. He met the Minister of the Interior, the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, and the Head of the Army Staff.

Upper Volta: In this country, where he stayed from 28 May to 2 June, he conferred with the Ministers of Defence, the Interior, Information and Youth. He had contacts also with the cabinet directors of the Ministries of Education and Social Affairs, and with the General Secretaries of the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs, with the General Directors of the Ministries of Health and Education, and with the Head of the Army Staff.

As in Niger, the regional delegate spoke on ICRC activities, the development of international humanitarian law and the dissemination of knowledge of that law in schools and in the armed forces.

Mali: Continuing his mission, one of the two ICRC regional delegates arrived in Mali on 6 June. He was received in Bamako by the Head of the State and conferred with the Ministers of Defence, the Interior, Justice, and Health, and with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Senegal: The delegate arrived in Dakar on 9 June where he was met by leaders of the Senegalese Red Cross Society. He was received at government level by the Secretary General of the Presidency, the Director of the Minister of Foreign Affairs' Cabinet, and the Director General of the Ministry of Health. He also had talks with the Chief of Staff of the PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands).

Central African Republic: The other regional delegate was in the Central African Republic from 2 to 7 June. At Bangui he met the delegate of the Presidency and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of the Interior, Education and Health.

At the National Police School, he gave a lecture on ICRC activities and the Geneva Conventions. He conferred also with members of the committee of the emerging Red Cross society.

### East Africa

Tanzania: The ICRC regional delegate for East Africa was in Tanzania from 8 to 18 May. He had discussions with government authorities and with National Red Cross leaders. He met in particular the Minister of the Interior to whom he described ICRC activities.

Madagascar: On 18 May, the delegate went to Madagascar. In Tananarive, he was received by the Head of the Government and had talks with government officials and Red Cross leaders.

### A Mission by the delegate-general for Latin America

As already announced, the ICRC delegate-general for Latin America, Mr. S. Nessi, recently went on a several week mission in

the Caribbean. He first stayed from 4 to 9 June in the Bahamas, where he was received by the Governor and conferred with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Telecommunications and with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health. He met the leading members of the emerging Red Cross to whom he described the activities of the ICRC and he also visited the local committee on Exuma Island.

After participating in Jamaica from 10 to 23 June in the regional training institute organized by the League of Red Cross Societies, the delegate-general proceeded to Haiti.

### Mexico

The ICRC regional delegate for Central America and the Caribbean went to Mexico on 7 June 1973. He was met by and conferred with the present and leading members of the Mexican Red Cross Society. At government level, he talked with the Director General for Foreign Affairs and with the heads of the Departments of Education and Defence, with whom he broached the possibility of introducing into schools and into the armed forces courses on the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions by means of the school textbook and the "Soldier's Manual".

### Venezuela

The ICRC regional delegates undertook a series of visits to places of detention in Venezuela.

From 12 to 23 May they went to five prisons in Caracas: the Cárcel Modelo, the Internado Judicial de San Juan de Los Morros, the Penitenciaría General de Venezuela, the Internado Judicial El Junquito and the Reten de Catia. In all, they saw more than 5,000 detainees, some sixty of whom were held for political reasons. On 30 May, they went to the "Instituto de Orientación Femenina Los Teques", the "Colonia Penal El Dorado", the "Cárcel Nacional de Ciudad Bolívar" and finally "Centro Penitenciaría de Oriente". In every place of detention, the delegates talked with the detainees without witnesses.

### Mission of delegate-general for Asia

From 28 April to 26 May, the ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, Mr. J. Ott, went to four Asian countries to study current problems facing the ICRC. He first went to Bangladesh where he stayed until 8 May. In Dacca he was received in audience by the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Relief and Reconstruction. He also conferred with the President of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society.

The second stage of his voyage led him to Nepal for a working meeting with heads of delegations on the Asian sub-continent and the desk officers at ICRC headquarters. Then, from 14 to 21 May, in order to review ICRC activities in that part of the world, Mr. Ott was in Thailand, where he was joined by the ICRC regional delegate who is based in Kuala Lumpur. In addition, he met the Thai Red Cross director.

On 21 May, Mr. Ott went to the Philippines where he conferred with the Minister ad interim for Foreign Affairs and with National Red Cross leaders.

### Republic of Vietnam

On 30 May 1973, ICRC delegates in the Republic of Vietnam visited in the Bien Hoa camp prisoners of war captured since the cease-fire of 28 January 1973. The delegates talked in private with the prisoners.

### Asian Sub-Continent

### Repatriation operations

On 18 and 19 May 1973, two repatriation operations took place at the Indo-Pakistani frontier post of Wagah, under ICRC auspices.

An Indian civilian released by the Pakistani authorities was repatriated on 18 May. On the same day, the ICRC delegates in Pakistan, on behalf of the Pakistan Red Cross, handed their colleagues in India 25,000 parcels and 1,000 books for Pakistani prisoners of war.

The next day, fifteen sick Bengali military personnel crossed from Pakistan into India for repatriation to Bangladesh. They were examined by an ICRC doctor then taken by ambulances to the Indian hospital at Amritsar before going on by train to New Delhi. On 23 May they flew to Dacca.

### Family messages

In May 1973, more than a million Red Cross messages were transmitted between India and Pakistan by the offices of the Central Tracing Agency: 484,616 messages from families of Pakistani prisoners of war went to India and were distributed in prison camps whilst the 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war in India wrote 680,400 letters to their families.

These figures bring up to 11 million the number of messages transmitted by the ICRC since the end of December 1971 between prisoners of war and their families.

### Bangladesh

Visits to prisoners of war.—On 28 May 1973, the ICRC delegates in Bangladesh visited 75 Pakistani prisoners of war detained in the central prison at Dacca. As usual, they were permitted to talk in private with the prisoners.

Release of a prisoner of war.—On 22 June 1973, a sick Pakistani prisoner of war released by Bangladesh was repatriated under ICRC auspices.

In the non-Bengali colonies.—One of the tasks facing the ICRC delegation in Bangladesh is to watch over the living conditions and especially the sanitation of the non-Bengali minority which is concentrated in colonies, mainly at Dacca, Chittagong, Khulna, Ishurdi, Bogra, Rangpur and Saidpur. The sanitation in these colonies is often inadequate; this, coupled with the dense population, favours the spread of disease. To remedy the situation, the ICRC is having drainage systems and toilets installed in several camps. WHO teams contribute to this campaign by conducting large-scale vaccinations against smallpox and cholera.

Each colony has one or more dispensaries and maternity wards staffed in general by a doctor and three nurses. Each of these centres tends an average of some 6,000 patients a month. Treatment is given free. Medicaments are supplied by several organizations such as the Bangladesh Red Cross, UNICEF, WHO and ICRC.

The most frequently encountered ailments are gastro-intestinal disorders, skin diseases and tuberculosis. To combat the latter, detection and therapy drives have begun in several colonies.

### India

Visits to prisoners of war.—ICRC doctors and delegates in May visited seventeen prisoner-of-war camps and four hospitals. They saw more than 44,000 Pakistani prisoners of war and were able to talk in private with anybody they wished. Reports on these visits are transmitted to the Governments of Pakistan and India.

Relief distributions.—In May 1973, ICRC delegates in India distributed relief to prisoners of war and civilian internees in six camps. They delivered spectacles, books, musical instruments, games for children, fresh fruit, powdered milk and cigarettes. In addition, the "one fresh fruit a day" programme started by the ICRC for the children of interned Pakistani civilians continued; 4,454 children benefitted in May.

### Pakistan

The ICRC delegates in Pakistan, on 22 and 26 May, visited some 150 Bengali senior civil servants arrested by the Pakistani authorities in the last few weeks. These persons, with their families, were held in camps in Warsak and Qadirabad.

In addition, with a view to stepping up its humanitarian activities, the ICRC decided to increase the strength of its delegation in Pakistan to seven delegates. Their main task is to visit the Bengali communities regularly and to distribute relief supplies.

There are three categories of Bengalis: former members of the Pakistani army and their families; civil servants; other civilians. The assistance provided by the ICRC through local committees comprises essentially medicaments, food and small sums of money.

From 23 to 29 May 1973, ICRC delegates in Pakistan visited

three pre-repatriation camps at Quetta, one at Sandeman and one at Loralai, in which Bengali members of the Pakistani armed forces are interned.

### Nepal

From 8 to 14 May 1973, a seminar in Kathmandu was attended by the heads of ICRC delegations in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, and by Mr. J. Ott, ICRC delegate-general for Asia and Oceania, and Mr. F. Payot, desk officer in Geneva for the Asian sub-continent. This meeting permitted an exchange of information and discussion of current problems.

The ICRC representatives also visited the Nepal Red Cross. They were received by H.R.H. the Princess Princep Shah, President, and met the members of the Central Committee of the National Society.

Before returning to Switzerland, Mr. Payot went to India and Bangladesh to acquaint himself with the activities of the ICRC delegations.

### Middle East

### Repatriation of prisoners of war

Three operations for the repatriation of prisoners of war took place in the Middle East on 3 June 1973 under the auspices of the ICRC.

In the first, three Israeli prisoners released by the Syrian authorities returned to Israel across the cease-fire line at Ahmedieh. On the same day, also at Ahmedieh, 46 Syrian prisoners released by the Israeli authorities were repatriated. In the third operation, at Ras Nakura, on the Israeli-Lebanese border, ten Lebanese prisoners returned to Lebanon.

### Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in the Arab countries and Israel several times visited prisoners of war during the last few weeks. As usual they talked with them in private.

In Israel, 108 Arab prisoners of war (57 Egyptians, 41 Syrians and 10 Lebanese) were visited on 16 May 1973. The five Syrian officers were visited on 15 and 28 May. After the repatriation of the 46 Syrians and ten Lebanese on 3 June, there remain 57 prisoners of war in Israel. They were visited again on 5 June 1973.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, the ten Israeli prisoners of war were visited on 19 May and 4 and 19 June 1973.

In Syria, the three Israeli prisoners of war saw the ICRC delegate on 15 May before their repatriation on 3 June 1973.

### Family reuniting

An operation for the reuniting of families took place on 21 May at El Qantara under ICRC auspices. It enabled 97 people from the Arab Republic of Egypt to join their families in the occupied territory of Gaza-Sinai. In the opposite direction, one Egyptian civilian returned to his country.

### Israel and the occupied territories

Visits to the Libyan aircraft disaster casualties.—The ICRC delegates in Israel, on 23 and 30 May, visited in the Beersheba hospital where they were still undergoing treatment the two survivors of the air disaster in the Sinai.

Visits to civilian detainees.—The ICRC delegates in Israel and the occupied territories, from 6 March to 27 April, made their twenty-fifth round of visits to places of detention. They went to a dozen prisons and saw some 2,100 civilian Arab detainees. As usual, they talked in private with whoever they wished.

Bus transport: The ICRC continued providing bus transport for the needy families of detainees. Each month it thereby enables some 3,000 people to go to the prisons to visit interned relatives.

Parcels: Each month the ICRC distributes, to detainees who have had no family visit for three months, parcels containing fruit, biscuits, cigarettes and toilet articles. Some 500 detainees receive such a parcel each month.

### Yemen Arab Republic

From 10 to 16 April 1973, the ICRC delegate distributed relief to refugees in the regions of Bab-el-Mandab, Taiz and El-Baida, in the Yemen Arab Republic. With the help of some fifteen voluntary workers, he distributed  $25\frac{1}{2}$  tons of flour, 3 tons of powdered skimmed milk, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tons of sugar to about 1,000 people, including 314 young children. This food would suffice them for three and a half months.

### IN GENEVA

### **Tunisian President at ICRC**

Whilst in Switzerland for the International Labour Conference, H.E. Mr. Habib Bourguiba, President of the Republic of Tunisia, on 25 June 1973 visited the headquarters of the ICRC, in response to the invitation which the President of the ICRC sent him last February.

President Bourguiba, accompanied by H.E. Mr. Slim, Permanent Representative of Tunisia in Geneva, and Mr. Ben Achour, Embassy Attaché, was welcomed by the President of the ICRC, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, and by members of the Committee and of the Directorate. Dr. Fourati, President of the Tunisian Red Crescent, and Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, were also present.

After President Bourguiba had signed the visitors book, the two Presidents discussed in private the ICRC's work throughout the world, and particularly in the Middle East. On the occasion of his visit, President Bourguiba demonstrated his interest in the work of the ICRC by making a generous donation.

# The ICRC and the Civilian Detainees in South Vietnam

On 8 June 1973, the ICRC issued the following press release:

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross welcomed the signing of the Paris Agreement of 27 January 1973 on ending the war in Vietnam, it cannot but state publicly its concern for the civilian detainees who are still kept in confinement.

The ICRC has already published its 1972 decision to suspend its visits to these prisoners in view of the restrictions which were being enforced, impeding the delegates in the discharge of their mission.

It is now obvious that the provisions of the Paris Agreement concerning these prisoners are not being applied. The two South Vietnamese parties have even now not officially invited any National Red Cross Society to visit all places where detained Vietnamese civilians are held, despite the fact that they were required to do so within fifteen days after the cease-fire came into effect, in accordance with Article 9 (b) of the Protocol concerning detained persons. Furthermore, the period of ninety days (Article 8 (c) of the Agreement) for the settlement of the question of the return of Vietnamese civilian detainees has expired long ago.

In view of the failure to apply these provisions, the ICRC reminded the two South Vietnamese parties, namely the Government of the Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam, on 2 April 1973, and now publicly reiterates its reminder, that it is prepared to resume visiting all places in South Vietnam where civilians are detained, provided its delegates are allowed freely to go where they wish and to talk privately with detainees of their choice in all places of detention, without restriction of any sort.

# JOINT COMMISSION OF THE EMPRESS SHOKEN FUND No 64

Geneva, April 1973

### FIFTY-SECOND DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

The Joint Commission entrusted with the distribution of the income of the Empress Shôken Fund met in Geneva in April. The Japanese Red Cross Society was represented by His Excellency Ambassador Hideo Kitahara.

The Commission noted the statement of accounts and the situation of the Fund as at 31st December 1972 and confirmed that the balance available amounted to Sw. Frs. 121,048.85.

In examining the applications the Joint Commission reviewed the experiences of the past few years. The Commission noted that the criteria (a. b. c.) it had established for allocation were still valid—

- a. to restrict the number of allocations and thereby increase the allocations so as to permit the beneficiary National Societies to implement the plans envisaged;
- b. to uphold only those from developing National Societies unable to have their projects financed otherwise and, among such Societies, whenever feasible those which have hitherto benefited least from assistance from the Shôken Fund;
- c. to refrain from considering the requests from those National Societies which have not conformed to the requirements

### IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

under article 5b of the Regulations according to which the beneficiary National Societies are expected to report on the use of the allocations received.

Eighteen requests were submitted by 18 National Societies for allocations from the 52nd Distribution of income and the Joint Commission decided to make the following allocations based on the above-mentioned criteria:

Burma Red Cross Society

Sw. Frs. 16,000.—

for the purchase of a vehicle for its relief services

Cameroon Red Cross Society

Sw. Frs. 20,000.—

for the purchase of a vehicle for its blood donor recruitment service

Chilean Red Cross Society

Sw. Frs. 10,000.—

for the purchase of a vehicle for its relief services

Egyptian Red Crescent Society

Sw. Frs. 14,000.—

for the purchase of a refrigerator centrifuge for its Blood Bank

Honduran Red Cross Society

Sw. Frs. 18,000.—

for the purchase of a vehicle for its medical services

Malaysian Red Cross Society

Sw. Frs. 36,000.—

for the purchase of a mobile relief operation control unit

Upper Volta Red Cross Society

Sw. Frs. 6,000.—

for the completion of the installation of first aid posts

The unused balance of Sw. Frs. 1,048.85 will be added to the income available for the 53rd Distribution.

In accordance with article 5b of the Regulations, the beneficiary National Societies are required to report in due course to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission on the use which has been made of the allocations received. The Joint Commission would like this report, accompanied by photographs if possible, to reach it at the

latest by the end of the year during which the allocation is used. It furthermore reminds beneficiaries of article 5a of the Regulations which prohibits them assigning the grant for purposes other than those specified without the previous consent of the Commission.

In accordance with the Regulations the 1973 income will be distributed in 1974. To facilitate National Societies to make applications in conformity with the Regulations, the Joint Commission has decided to send, as in the past year, model application forms to all National Societies.

The Joint Commission desires to remind National Societies that such requests must indicate the purposes for which the allocation will be used, in order for them to be considered; they must also, as far as possible, be accompanied by a plan of financing. Requests must be submitted to the Secretariat of the Joint Commission before 31st December 1973.

# For the Joint Commission

League of Red Cross Societies	International Committee of the Red Cross
H. Beer ·	R. Gallopin (Chairman)
N. Abut	P. Gaillard
K. Seevaratnam (Secretary)	JP. Maunoir

\* \*

# Empress Shôken Fund

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1972

(expressed in Swiss Francs)

Assets	-	Liabilities and	own funds	
	Sw. Frs.		Sw. Frs.	Sw. Frs.
Securities in portfolio		Capital:		
Swiss bonds	60,000	Balance carried forward from the previous year .		1,931,071.41
Foreign bonds in Swiss Francs 1 Market value 1,925,200.—	,915,953.90	Plus: Special contributions received in 1972 from the		
Other foreign bonds Market value 286,864.—	292,994.25	Japanese Government and Japanese Red Cross		277 010
	040 040 45	and Japanese Red Closs		277,019.—
2	2,268,948.15			2,208,090.41
Debtors:		Provision for loss on invest-		76 107 05
Account receivable, with-		ment		76,197.95
holding tax recoverable . 999.55		tive expenses:		
Current account with the		Balance carried forward		
League of Red Cross		from the previous year .	4,253.46	
Societies 5,870.74	6,870.29	Transfer from the income		
		statement as per the sta-	6.474.00	
Fixed deposit:		tutes	6,174.20	
Trade Development Bank,			10,427.66	
Geneva	100,000	Less:		
Cash at Bank:		Actual administrative expenses for the year 1972	4,777.60	5,650.06
Swiss National Bank,		Excess of income over ex-		
Geneva 22,252.73	J	penditure for the year ended December 31, 1972		121,048.85
Trade Development Bank,		•	-	<del></del>
Geneva 46,792.90		Total of own funds	_	2,410,987.27
MM. Bordier & Cie, Geneva12,028,80	81,074.43	Creditors (Allocations to be withdrawn)		45,905.60
2,	,456,892.87	•	_	2,456,892.87
			_	

# SITUATION OF SECURITIES AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1972

4 % Canton de Genève 1963/1979 4½% Crédit Foncier Vaudois 1964/1977 5½% Japan 1964/1979 5½% Japan 1968/1983 6¾% Japan Devel. Bank 1970/1985 7 % Asian Devel. Bank 1971/1986 7 % Asian Devel. Bank 1971/1986 8 % Norges Kommunalbank 1972/1987 9¼% Worldbank, Washington 1968/Nov. 1986 6½% Worldbank, Washington 1971/1986 5½% Worldbank, Washington 1971/1986 5½% Worldbank, Washington 1972/1990 6 % Japan 1964/1979 DM 120,000 6 % Japan 1980 US\$ 15,000 6 % Tokyo 1980 US\$ 15,000	. 10,000.— . 200,000.— . 650,000.— . 400,000.— . 200,000.— . 70,000.— . 100,000.— . 160,000.— . 150,000.— . 140,700.— at 117.25 — 56,400.— at 3.76 — 45,120.— at 3.76	PURCHASE PRICE Sw. Fr. 50,000.— 10,000.— 194,054.— 639,295.— 402,480.— 202,765.— 70,002.— 98,108.— 160,000.— 149,250.— 123,477.— 59,616.— 48,989.— 60,912.— 2,268,948.—	Market Value Sw. Fr. 46,000.— 92% 9,600.— 96% 198,000.— 99% 637,000.— 102% 70,000.— 102% 70,000.— 100% 96,000.— 96% 168,000.— 105% 144,000.— 96% 135,070.— 96% 51,852.— 92% 43,315.— 96% 52,827.— 94%
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Notes:
1) As from 1.1.1969, the investments are accounted for at their purchase price.
2) Compared with the purchase price, the market value shows a depreciation of Sw. Fr. 1,284.— (=0.06%)

# STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1972

Income	Sw. Frs.
Interest income from bonds	122,602.45 881.80
	123,484.25
Expenses	
5% of total income above transferred to the Provision for administrative expenses (article 7 of the statutes of the Fund)	6,174.20
Result	
Excess of income over expenditure for 1972	117,310.05
STATEMENT OF APPROPRI	ATION
Balance carried forward from previous year	104,738.80
Less: Fifty-first distribution of income for the year 1971 to seven National Red Cross Societies, according to the decision taken by the Joint Commission on 15th March	
1972 (circular No. 63 of 11th April 1972)	101,000.—
Unused balance	3,738.80
Excess of income over expenditure for the year 1972	117,310.05
Balance as at December 31, 1972 as per balance sheet	121,048.85

#### DEATH OF LEAGUE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 24 June 1973, Mr. Nedim Abut, Deputy Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, died suddenly. After fulfilling important functions with the Turkish Red Crescent from 1946 onwards and representing the Turkish Government at various international conferences, including the 1949 Geneva Diplomatic Conference, he took part in the work of several commissions and consultative committees of the League before being appointed, in 1962, Under Secretary-General of that institution. Four years later he was appointed Deputy Secretary-General, in which capacity he has carried out several missions in various parts of the world.

The International Committee will not forget Mr. Abut and expresses its sympathy to the League on its loss of such a valuable colleague.

# INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASSISTANCE IN INDO-CHINA

# Special projects

In addition to programmes of direct assistance to displaced persons and the particularly distressed populations in the Republic of Vietnam, the Khmer Republic and Laos, which we mentioned last month, the Indo-China Operational Group has prepared several "special projects" in co-operation with the Red Cross in the countries concerned. Some of those projects are in progress, such as the improving of the Phnom Penh pediatric centre, the medico-social action in orphanages in the Republic of Vietnam, and the supply of medicaments and medical and surgical equipment to the Pathet Lao, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government. Other projects in the IOG programme are:

Vietnam Republic: construction, equipping and financing for one year of a hospital for paraplegic cases at Vung Tau (estimated cost 5.3 million Swiss francs); construction, equipping and operation for a year of 18 provincial medical centres (13.7 million Swiss francs); equipping of a centre for amputees in Saigon (650,000 Swiss francs); sundry relief projects (550,000 Swiss francs).

Democratic Republic of Vietnam: provision to the Red Cross of this country of medical material and ambulances for about 1.3 million Swiss francs.

Provisional Revolutionary Government: equipping of a university hospital centre (estimated at 10 million Swiss francs).

Khmer Republic: despatch of a medico-surgical team (cost of one year's operation 500,000 Swiss francs); participation in establishing the Khmer Red Cross National Rehabilitation Centre (200,000 Swiss francs).

Laos: orthopedic hospital at Savannakhet (380,000 Swiss francs); assistance to Vientiane orthopedic centre (6,500 Swiss francs); services of an orthopedist for these two centres (estimated cost for one year 85,000 Swiss francs).

# Democratic Republic of Vietnam

As mentioned, the technical specifications for the construction of prefabricated houses for 100,000 homeless people in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam have been submitted to National Societies which may be prepared to give the project financial support.

The specifications meet several basic conditions. The project includes the production and delivery to Haiphong of material and prefabricated elements for the rapid construction of the greatest possible number of simple houses. Vietnamese participation is ensured in respect of choice and planning of sites, transport, management and work of construction.

The first deliveries to Haiphong are expected before October 1973. In order to ensure the construction of the greatest possible number of houses with the means available to the Red Cross for this project, the strictest economy is a major need.

Whilst providing emergency shelters for the homeless, these houses should nevertheless have a life of thirty years. They should

be resistant to the humidity, heat and wind of the tropical climate. These houses, even though very simple, must satisfy essential needs but they will not from the outset satisfy all the needs; it is therefore planned to improve them later.

The erection and assembly of the prefabricated elements must be simple enough to enable the work to be done by unskilled labour.

Each house will have a surface of 20 to 30 square metres, depending on the number of inhabitants, and will have one or two rooms.

The actual living quarters are separated by an inner court from a unit which includes a kitchen and an ablution room which, for the smaller types of house, can be used by two families.

# Activities of Delegates in the Field

At the end of May 1973, IOG had in the field 45 people made available by the ICRC, the League and six National Societies (Belgium, France, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and Tunisia).

# Activity of the Tracing Offices

Laos: The Tracing Agency office in Vientiane has distributed thousands of family message forms and enquiry forms. Hundreds of requests for news of missing persons have been received since the office was opened.

Khmer Republic: The central office in Phnom Penh has transmitted to Geneva about a hundred requests for enquiries into the fate of missing military personnel and civilians; it has registered 6,000 displaced persons.

Republic of Vietnam: The Saigon office has sent the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva about a thousand requests for enquiries, which were immediately transferred to the Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. In Saigon and in the provinces, the registering of displaced persons continues.

#### **USSR**

The Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR celebrated its jubilee with festivities in Moscow, from 25 to 29 May, to which it invited Angela, Countess of Limerick, President of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross; Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC; Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, and Miss Paulette Tombet, Director of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency. Invitations were also extended to representatives of the National Societies of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and Yugoslavia.

At the official jubilee ceremony, a number of addresses were delivered, including one by Mrs. N.V. Troyan, President of the Alliance, who reviewed the achievements of fifty years' activity. The Presidents of thirteen Red Cross Societies and four Red Crescent Societies in Soviet Socialist Republics also spoke.

The President of the Standing Commission, the President of the ICRC and the Secretary General of the League congratulated the Alliance on the anniversary and wished it prosperity in a spirit of fraternity and unity.

Mr. Naville referred to the close co-operation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the operations which the ICRC had conducted in conflict areas, in particular by making surgical teams available, and the participation of Alliance experts in the development of international humanitarian law. The President of the ICRC said: "To improve the international legal instruments whereby the horrors of war may be curbed, to disseminate in every country a better knowledge of the 1949 Geneva Conventions designed to protect the victims of conflicts and to lessen their sufferings, is a vital contribution to more peaceful relations between nations. In this task, the Alliance's activities within the International Red Cross have been, and may continue to be, decisive ".

All guests were received by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Supreme Soviet.

Miss Tombet visited the Tracing Bureau of the Alliance, which works in close touch with the ICRC Central Tracing Agency.

#### RED CROSS AND NURSING

Towards the end of last year, Miss Yvonne Hentsch, Under Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, in charge of the Services to National Societies Sector and former director of the Nursing Bureau, retired. She had served on the League Secretariat since 1939 and her broad knowledge of nursing problems and her exemplary competence in social work had earned her the esteem of various circles in both the nursing and the Red Cross worlds. As Miss M. Duvillard, a member of the ICRC wrote, "Yvonne Hentsch, it seems, has the secret of the really universal Red Cross language which dispenses with words and goes straight to the heart".

Miss Hentsch recently published, under the title Red Cross and Nursing, a study from which we are pleased to quote, because it is of vital interest and examines problems which are very topical. We hope that she will see our doing so as a tribute. (Ed.)

# ... Adapting to change

The rapid evolution which is characteristic of today's world has affected, needless to say, both the Red Cross and nursing. The demands made on them are changing because the needs of society are different. In the field of nursing education, National Societies can afford less and less the expense of running schools of nursing offering a basic programme unless the Government entrusts them with this task and provides the necessary funds. More and more also, advanced studies in nursing are part of univer-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Panorama (1973, No. 1), League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva.

sity programmes and therefore there is less need for the Red Cross to undertake them. Instead, some National Societies are offering scholarships for such studies to nurses who upon returning to their country assume leadership positions. The League strongly supports such action and assists the donor Societies in the selection of suitable candidates when the latter are nationals of another country than the one where the studies are to be undertaken.

To meet increasing nursing needs the existence in most countries of a well-qualified nurse assistant has become imperative. In some countries the National Society has undertaken this training. In the majority of cases, however, the latter is in the hands of other institutions while the Red Cross concentrates on preparing volunteer nursing auxiliaries and hospital aids.

With regard to health education, it has become such an integral part of nursing and of all public health programmes that there is less need for the Red Cross to pioneer in this field. On the other hand, however, the National Society is often requested to take over these activities until such time as they can be carried out by the official public health services.

One traditional obligation of National Societies is "in time of war and if the need arises to assist the Army Medical Services by every means in its power" (Geneva International Conference, 1863, Resolutions, Chapter 1, Article 1). In the early days of the Red Cross this often meant providing practically the whole nursing service required in time of conflict. Over the last 25 years the military authorities of most countries have established their own nursing services, thus leaving for National Societies in most cases only a complementary role to play in this respect.

Nevertheless the obligation remains for National Societies to furnish whatever personnel may be needed. In addition these Societies are increasingly required by the civilian authorities to intervene and even to assume leadership in disaster relief operations. Nursing personnel is often needed and must be prepared and readily available at all times to join in such operations, nationally or internationally. To help National Societies to meet this responsibility, the League has prepared a set of special guidelines. While geared to disaster nursing, these guidelines meet the requirements of the Principles and Rules for Red Cross Disaster Relief as approved

by the XXI International Conference of the Red Cross, Istanbul, 1969.

Changing demands have changed the aspect of the Red Cross nursing services rendered to the community as compared to what they were 100 years ago. Such services, however, in meeting new needs fulfil a vital role and they will continue to do so in the fore-seeable future, provided both the National Societies and the nursing profession remain at the same time open to change and true to the fundamental principle of *Humanity* which they have in common.

### Tomorrow's challenge

In the different countries of the world both old and new, National Societies are called upon to serve communities that are not only different from one another but the needs of which also fluctuate within the same communities. In most of them there is at all times need for some extra service that is not provided by the official authorities, however well equipped and organized. Hopefully, too, there is in all of them room for some kind of neighbourly volunteer service that makes the world of some people a better and happier place to live in. It is those kinds of services that are a challenge to Red Cross. They are also a challenge to nursing because, in the community, nurses are in a particularly good strategic position to detect human needs and more specifically health needs. As part of the health team they are also prepared to take their share of responsibility in meeting these needs.

Tomorrow's challenge for the Red Cross lies in its ability to attract the best of the nursing resources that are available to serve in times of conflict and disaster as well as in permanent health programmes. For nursing, the challenge is to recognise that the Red Cross provides a channel of service where nursing ideals and principles apply and where all nursing skills are needed.

To meet such a challenge leadership is required, nationally and internationally, on the part of both National Societies and of the nursing profession. If together they keep on seeking new ways of meeting changing community needs, then Red Cross and Nursing will continue to make an exciting and worthwhile story.

# DISSEMINATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

#### GREECE

The Hellenic Red Cross has promoted activities in different circles in order to ensure the widest possible dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions.

Youth—It has got in touch with the younger members of the Junior Red Cross, now numbering 500,000 children, organized in 32,000 groups, and led by 15,000 teachers. A booklet summarizing the essential provisions of the Geneva Conventions and containing information on the Red Cross and its various organs has been distributed to the teachers who base on it the instruction they give to their pupils on the principles of the Geneva Conventions. In addition, a monthly Junior Red Cross bulletin, of which 300,000 copies are printed, contains articles on the Conventions.

Nurses—Red Cross nurses follow lectures on the Geneva Conventions, based on documentation prepared by the National Society, in the third—and last—year of the course they receive in theoretical and practical nursing. In Athens and other towns in the provinces, this subject is also taught to 10,000 auxiliary aids, and a Greek version of the ICRC booklet, "Rights and Duties of Nurses", is due to come out this year.

First-aiders—The principles of the Conventions and an introduction to the history and activities of the Red Cross are taught, with the aid of slides, at first-aid courses. The same instruction is given at special first-aid courses for groups comprising members of the police, port services, radio-communication services, etc.

These notions are also outlined in a publication written by the Director of the Hellenic Red Cross Relief Section, which is distrib-

uted by the National Society to members of the armed forces, in schools and to its different branches and departments. Furthermore, the Society's President and officials often have the opportunity, during their frequent contacts with the public, to speak on the meaning and significance of the Geneva Conventions.

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#### LEBANON

The Lebanese Red Cross has informed the ICRC of the various measures that it is taking to make the Geneva Conventions known in its country. It has listed them under the responsible sections, as follows:

#### Red Cross Youth Section

- 8 to 9 year olds: succinct explanation of the role of the Red Cross on the occasion of disasters and in time of war.
- 10 to 11 year olds: under the heading "Mutual Aid", more detailed explanations are given of the four Conventions in the form of informal conversation groups.
- 12 to 13 year olds: the International Red Cross and its structure, the Geneva Conventions.
- 14 to 15 year olds: study of the four Geneva Conventions.
- 15 to 18 year olds: more detailed study of the four Conventions. Use is made of the textbook "The Red Cross and my Country" and the children illustrate certain articles of the Conventions relating to the protection of the sick and wounded and of civilians, by acting out small sketches.

#### First Aid Section

All first aiders are given a clear and precise insight into the four Conventions, whom and what they protect. A summarised version of the Conventions is used for this purpose.

#### Volunteer Section

The volunteers are acquainted with the principles governing the Conventions and one member of the Section has written a book for the use of that Section. It is called *La Croix-Rouge pour tous*. One chapter makes specific reference to the ICRC in general and another describes the Geneva Conventions and Red Cross Principles.

#### Schools for assistant nurses

The Conventions are summarized for the pupils and they all receive the booklet Rights and Duties of Nurses.

### **Nursing Schools**

The pupils of the Lebanese Red Cross include both female nurses and trainee military male nurses. The first contingent of the latter to graduate, at the end of three years study, should be receiving their diploma in July 1973. Courses were held on the Conventions and all pupils received the booklet *Rights and Duties of Nurses*.

Furthermore, instructresses give talks on the Conventions in all nursing schools not run by the Red Cross and the booklet is distributed in three languages (Arabic, English and French). The Red Cross nurses themselves occasionally put on sketches to illustrate the articles of the Conventions relating to the protection of the sick and wounded. Slides on the Conventions are shown also.

# Military Academy

The ladies of the Central Committee lecture on the Conventions to the students at the Military Academy.

# Lebanese University

Mr. George Asmar, Attorney, Member of the Central Committee and Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, has had the Principles of Humanitarian Law, and the Four Geneva Conventions included as subjects in the official syllabus.

# VIth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MILITARY LAW AND THE LAW OF WAR

This Society of outstanding jurists, military officers and doctors—several of whom attended the Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law (1971 and 1972), or the consultative meetings organized by the ICRC—studies questions to which an institution such as the International Committee attaches great importance. Several items on the agenda of this Sixth International Congress <sup>1</sup> were directly linked to the current work of the ICRC relating to the drafting of two Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, for submission to a diplomatic conference in 1974. The ICRC having been invited to participate in the Congress, it delegated Mr. Antoine Martin, Assistant to the Head of the Legal Division.

The Congress's programme included two themes. The first, Cease-fire, had been the subject of a general report by Mrs. S. Bastid, Professor at the University of Paris, member of the Académie des sciences morales et politiques de France. This report—based on various national reports—, papers which were submitted, and remarks by speakers, contain considerations which are of importance for certain provisions of the above-mentioned Draft Protocols. The second theme, Implementation of prison sentences passed on military personnel: individualization of treatment, was the subject of a general report by Mr. H.-H. Jescheck, Professor of Penal Law at the University of Freiburg-im-Brisgau, Director of the Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Strafrecht and a renowned penologist who has on several occasions taken part in consultative meetings convened by the ICRC on the repression of breaches of the Geneva Conventions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> At The Hague, 21-25 May 1973.

The Society's working groups considered the particular work allotted to them: (1) the committee for the protection of human life in armed conflicts examined the study by Général-Major médecin e.r. E. Evrard on 'Problems in the medical-legal field posed by the concept of sanitary areas and localities and that of security areas and localities in wartime', and the paper by Mr. D. Fleck, Federal German Minister of Defence, on 'Ruses of War and Prohibition of Perfidy' (both papers contain many references to the Geneva Conventions and to the Additional Protocols currently being drafted); (2) the working committee for the history of military penal and disciplinary law was absorbed in its research; (3) the committee of military criminology was occupied with 'Lectures on criminology within the framework of officer-training'.

After concluding its work, the Congress elected Mr. R. Paucot, Avocat général (Paris), as president, to succeed Professor J. Gilissen, Universities of Brussels. It also awarded the Ciardi Prize for 1973 to Mr. F. Kalshoven (Netherlands) for his *Belligerent Reprisals* (published by the Henry Dunant Institute) <sup>1</sup>.

# INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MILITARY MEDICINE AND PHARMACY

The Twenty-First Congress met at Bucarest from 21 to 24 May 1973 and was followed by the thirty-second session of the Office International de Documentation de Médecine militaire. The meetings were chaired by Major General Dr. A. Augustin, Senior Medical Officer of the Romanian Army and a member of the Romanian Red Cross. Forty-three countries participated in the Congress, while Dr. R. Marti, Chief Medical Officer of the ICRC, represented both the ICRC and League of Red Cross Societies. Speaking in that capacity, Dr. Marti outlined briefly the present tasks of the international

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See International Review, April 1971, pp. 183 et seq., pp. 230 et seq.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Red Cross institutions and drew particular attention to the work which the ICRC is carrying out for the development of humanitarian law.

A number of papers, some of them illustrated by films, were presented on the following three themes:

— Present resuscitation techniques on the battle-field—Methods for the rapid diagnosis, immunoprophylaxis and immunotherapy of contagious diseases in time of war—Role of the Military Medical Corps in the organization of first aid in cases of natural disasters in time of peace.

With regard to this last item, several of the papers submitted were of evident interest to the Red Cross, especially that dealing with the *Elément médical d'intervention rapide* (Medical unit for quick intervention). Such a unit, known as EMIR in French military circles and which has been set up by the French as a military medical unit, offers today the best solution to the problem of forwarding medical supplies, whether in cases of natural disasters or in armed conflicts.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See International Review, November 1972.

# BOOKS AND REVIEWS

The Personality of Florence Nightingale, Alberta R. Kovacs, International Nursing Review, Geneva, 1973, No. 3.

...It has been interesting to note the various patterns emerging as each of the three kinds of references were consulted. Their content, scope and style undoubtedly varied with the purpose and background of the author. There appears to be agreement among writers in each of the three areas; that is, sufficient agreement about Miss Nightingale's outstanding characteristics to present three different aspects of her personality. These may be viewed as having created three distinct but not entirely separate images.

For example, nursing histories emphasize her practical nature, her discipline and obedience as well as her gentleness and good breeding—in other words, the qualities desired in a nurse. On the other hand, the general histories have pointed up the more forceful aspects of the *Nightingale* personality—leadership, dignity, competence and self-sacrifice, all of which were highlighted during the Crimean crisis. The biographic dictionaries crystallize the attributes of energy, industry and perseverance.

Disagreements between sources may be viewed as differences in emphasis, rather than omissions. It is evident that one must read exhaustively from a wide variety of sources to obtain a complete description of the *Nightingale* personality. It is apparent that the various approaches to the topic are made each with its 'own kind of bias'. Of special interest and importance is the fact that mention was made of only one of Miss *Nightingale*'s faults.

For these reasons, it would be rewarding to read her letters and books to determine what she reveals of herself.

# TWO ICRC PUBLICATIONS

The ICRC, working on the preparation of the Draft Protocols which are to be submitted to the Diplomatic Conference scheduled to take place early in 1974, convened two sessions of a Conference of Government Experts, on each of which a report has been issued. These two reports, bearing the same title, may be obtained from the ICRC:

"Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts "—First session, Geneva, 1971.

### Report on the Work of the Conference

Geneva, 1971: 8vo, 121 pp. . . . . Sw. Fr. 15.—

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"Conference of Government Experts on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts"—Second session, Geneva, 1972.

# Report on the Work of the Conference

Geneva, 1972: 8vo, vol. I 209 pp. Sw. Fr. 25.—vol. II 116 pp. the 2 volumes

# THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF AUGUST 12, 1949 1

#### Some Publications

	Sw. Fr
The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. 2nd Ed. 1950. 245 pp.	10.—
<b>Commentary</b> published under the general editorship of Mr. J. Pictet, member of ICRC:	
<ul> <li>Vol. 1: Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field — 466 pp.</li> <li>bound</li> <li>paper-back</li> </ul>	40.— 30.—
<ul> <li>Vol. 2: Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea — 320 pp.</li> </ul>	
bound paper-back	35.— 25.—
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*	
International Red Cross Handbook. <sup>2</sup> Conventions—Statutes and Regulations—Resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, 11th ed. 1971; 8vo, 607 pp	40.—

These publications and the full list of ICRC publications may be obtained from the ICRC Documentation Department, 7 avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 1.
 This joint publication can be obtained at the above address or from the League of Red Cross Societies, Case postale 2099, CH-1211 Geneva 19.



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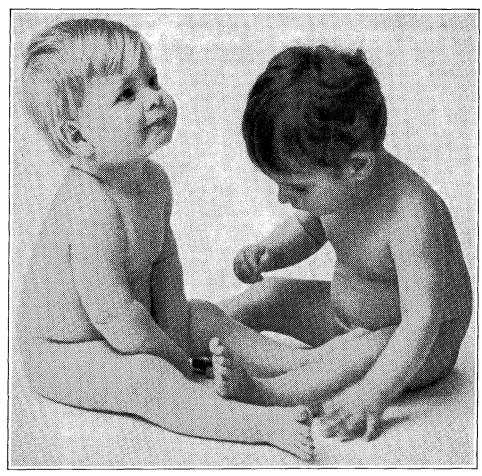
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- U.S.S.R. Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Tcheremushki I. Tcheremushkinskii proezd 5, Moscow B-36.
- VENEZUELA Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No. 4, Apart. 3185, Caracas.
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68 rue Bà-Trièu, *Hanoi*.
- REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201 duong Hông-Thập-Tu, No. 201, Saigon.
- YUGOSLAVIA Red Cross of Yugoslavia, Simina ulica broj 19, Belgrade.
- ZAIRE (Republic of) Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, 41 av. de la Justice, B.P. 1712, Kinshasa.
- ZAMBIA Zambia Red Cross, P.O. Box R.W.1, 2838 Brentwood Drive, Lusaka.